

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish
Policies and Rules to Ensure Reliable, Long-Term
Supplies of Natural Gas to California.

Rulemaking 04-01-025
(Filed January 22, 2004)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING IN RESPONSE TO THE
MARCH 8, 2006 MOTION OF THE SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
AND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**

In a motion dated March 8 2006, the San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) and the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) requested an expedited decision in this proceeding regarding local transmission expansion policy. In addition, the utilities asked that the time in which to respond to this motion be reduced, with responses due on or before March 15, 2006. The stated reason for the request is a concern that new electric generation load is being constructed that might increase demand on SoCalGas' "Rainbow Corridor" and affect the level of service provided SDG&E in 2008. The utilities further assert that they need to conduct and complete an open season by June 2006, and need a decision from the Commission on local transmission policy no later than April 13, 2006.

The utilities have offered no facts to support any of these assertions. They have not (a) demonstrated the basis for assuming that the new electric generating facility would be energized at any particular date in 2008, (b) offered any information suggesting that the new generator is interested in utilizing the Rainbow Corridor to transport gas, (c) shown that the anticipated gas demand from that plant would represent an unmanageable net throughput burden on the

Rainbow Corridor, (d) demonstrated the amount of time that would be required to expand capacity sufficiently, or (e) explained in any way why the Commission needs to take the extraordinary step of issuing a decision by April 13, 2006. In addition, the utilities have made no formal request for approval of an open season, either through this proceeding, a separate application, or an advice letter. Further, the motion is so general that it is not evident that there would be anything meaningful for other parties to say in response. It is also unclear why there are two utilities presenting this motion.

In order to receive consideration for the motion, the utilities need to add specificity in all of these respects, with one or more affidavits attached to support factual assertions. Depending on the timing of any amended motion, I will consider the merits of shortening time for response. In the meantime, I will continue to work toward getting a decision before the Commission at the earliest possible date.

IT IS SO RULED.

Dated March 13, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ STEVEN WEISSMAN

Steven Weissman
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling in Response to the March 8, 2006 Motion of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company and the Southern California Gas Company on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated March 13, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELIZABETH LEWIS
Elizabeth Lewis

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

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